

# OBSERVER PANEL PLAN

## Statewide Special Election, May 19, 2009

County: Santa Barbara County  
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Date: April 13, 2009

### Purpose:

Provide an avenue for public observation, encourage participation and build voter confidence in the elections process.

### Check in Procedures:

1. Observers must report to the elections official and sign in on the elections observer log.
2. Observers will be issued a badge that must be worn at all times.
3. When leaving, badges must be returned to the front counter.

### Observing the Elections Process:

An elections staff member will describe to the observers the vote tabulation process and the procedures followed in receiving and tabulating ballots. Designated elections staff will escort observers to the vote tabulating and ballot processing areas on election night.

### General Rules for Observers:

Prior to the election panel members will receive a copy of the guidelines for election observers. The person(s) who view this process must agree to follow the rules outlined below:

### Observers are responsible for:

1. Checking in with the elections official and for signing the elections observer log.
2. Wearing an identification badge.
3. Maintaining a professional manner while observing the election processes.
4. Ensuring that they do not interfere with the elections process.

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### Observers may:

1. Be permitted access only to designated observation area, sufficiently close to enable them to observe procedures.
2. View the activities at the central counting and ballot processing sites.
3. Make notes and watch procedures and activities.
4. Ask questions of designated elections staff. All questions concerning a procedure should be directed to the elections representative that is escorting the Observer Panel.

### Observers may not:

1. Assist in operations, touch or handle any ballots or other election-related materials.
2. Interfere in any way with the conduct of the election.
3. Touch any voting materials or equipment.
4. Display any election materials or wear campaign badges, buttons or apparel.
5. Talk to central counting and ballot processing workers while they are processing ballots or supplies.
6. Eat or drink at the central counting or ballot processing sites.

In the event of violation of these rules, elections staff will ask the observer to leave the central count and ballot processing areas.